

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

January, 1980
Issue No. 83

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

JANUARY MEETING: Robert Ritterband will be hosting this month's CATC meeting on the afternoon (1 to 4:30) of January 20th at his home at 6576 Colgate Ave., in the Fairfax area of Los Angeles, just a few blocks west and south of Farmers Market. Colgate is parallel to Wilshire Blvd. and about a half mile north. Although the meeting falls on Superbowl Sunday, there is always a good turnout. I believe that every truly dedicated token collector would rather "tokenize" (talk, trade, and acquire tokens) at one of our bimonthly meetings than watch a conflicting football game. The fact that we've had good to decent attendances at our January meetings in recent years seems to indicate so. And by coming, you'll get to meet Bob Ritterband and see the interesting and colorful plastic tokens you can order from him. Bob is unable to attend our other meetings as he conducts tours at those times.

We will have another small token auction at the meeting, so bring some interesting material to sell through the auction.

1980 DUES: If you have not already done so, please send in your dues of \$2.00 to continue your membership in the CATC. Last year almost everyone renewed, and we had 20 new members in 1979, so lets keep rolling and maybe we'll reach the 100 current paid-up membership mark this year. Send your 1980 dues to Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome as a new member Eleanor Smith, who has been attending our meetings quite regularly (probably for over 20 years) along with her husband Ken and son Kirk. Eleanor is acting as secretary for the Amusement Token Collectors Association (ATCA) in its current founding stages. ATCA will be more formally founded within the next few months, after the new amusement token book by Alpert & Smith has time to be more widely distributed. With a limited printing of about 400 copies, this first edition may some day become a collectors item, so if you plan to obtain a copy, don't wait too long. (Available for \$24.95 + tax, postpaid, from Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066)

We also have four additional new out of state members to welcome aboard: Orville Berve of Williston, ND; David Schulz of Winona, Minn.; Garland L. Kincaid of Tulsa, Okla.; and Paul F. White of Fayville, Mass.

NOVEMBER MEETING NEWS: The slate of CATC officers listed in the last issue was voted in unanimously at the election held in November. The 1980 officers are: Stephen Alpert, President; James Garner, Vice President; Elaine Willahan, Secretary; and Andy Crusen, Treasurer. John Barnes is our Past President and NASC Representative.

Nineteen members and two guests attended the November meeting, hosted by Elaine Willahan. Present were Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John and Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Don Finch, Bob Kubach, Bill Massey, Edrick Miller, Bob Null, Fritz Rohrman, Frank Roselinsky, Wally Shidler, Ken Smith,

Kirk Smith, Eleanor Smith, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willahan, with guests Diane Massey and Lucy Perez.

Sixteen lots of tokens were auctioned off by John Barnes. Most of the tokens this time were trade tokens ; they went for about one to two dollars each, but an oldie from Alhambra sold for a CATC auction record high of 9.50. Better tokens will bring good bids in the auctions, so try submitting some the next time you attend a meeting. The CATC treasury gets 10% of the high bid, so you'll be helping our club treasury at the same time.

The auctions have been the "program" at our meetings lately, as we have run out of volunteer speakers. If you wish to informally address our group at a future meeting and talk about your token specialty or other collecting or hobby interests, please offer to do so.

Also, if you wish to send in a news item or a short article for publication in TOKEN TOPICS, please send it to the editor. Or if you have a longer article or a trial listing of some group of tokens, we can afford to put out large multipaged issues of TOKEN TOPICS now and then, but we need something to print.

CATC CATC: No, you're not seeing double. There really are two CATC token organizations: us, the California Association of Token Collectors (CATC), and the Canadian Association of Token Collectors (CATC). Although the initials are the same, I do not believe there has been any serious confusion so far. The Canadian CATC was founded in 1972 (so we were first) and they publish THE CANADIAN TOKEN bimonthly. I haven't seen this publication yet, but I will as I just recently joined. Their membership is \$10.00 per year. For an application write Ken Palmer, 10 Wesanford Place, Hamilton, Ont. Canada L8P 1N6.

Copies of our TOKEN TOPICS go out to several numismatic organizations and publications, and through this medium we obtain valuable publicity. To the right is a clipping from COIN WORLD about our recent activities.

The recent large increases in the value of gold and silver could cause many coin collectors to discover the exciting world of exonumia, as older coins become more and more expensive. Thus in the 1980s we may see a boom in token and medal collecting. Try introducing exonumia to you coin collecting friends and acquaintances.

CATC to elect slate

Members of the California Association of Token Collectors (CATC) scheduled an election of officers for their November meeting, held at the Los Angeles home of Elaine Willahan.

The slate of officers included Stephen Alpert, president; James Garner, vice president; Elaine Willahan, secretary, and Andy Crusen, treasurer.

Alpert and Ken Smith, authors of the recently published reference, "Amusement Tokens of the United States and Canada," have announced the founding of an Amusement Token Collectors Association, an informal organization for collectors of amusement tokens and the old coin-operated gambling and vending machines in which they were used.

Alpert indicated about 25 collectors belong to the group already. There are no initial dues. Interested persons should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ken Smith, 328 Ave. F, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277.

Formal organization of ATCA is not expected to take place until early next year; those joining the group now will enjoy charter membership.

BY JOHNNY HART



TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

March, 1980
Issue No. 84

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

MARCH MEETING: Elaine Willahan will be the host for our meeting on Sunday, March 16, from 1 to 5 PM, at her home at 516 West 99th St. in Los Angeles (from Harbor Fwy take Century Blvd one block west to Figueroa then one block north to West 99th. I predict a good turnout for this meeting, so bring along your trading material and a few items for the auction.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT

Sixteen members and one guest attended the January meeting at Bob Ritterband's home in Los Angeles. Present were: Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John and Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Jim Garner, Bob Kubach, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Bob Rosenberger, Wally Shidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, Alan Weinberg; and guest Molly Ritterband. Elaine Willahan was there also (I accidentally left her out of the list above.)

Secretary Elaine Willahan reported that we have another new member, Roy D. Nulph, Box 20392, Hunter, Utah 84120. He is Vice President of the AVA. We welcome Roy as CATC member number 186.

Elaine also reported that many members have not renewed their CATC membership for 1980. Please do so now, if you haven't as yet sent in your \$2.00 dues to Elaine at 516 W. 99th St., L.A., Cal. 90044. This may be the last free copy of TOKEN TOPICS sent to those who haven't paid for 1980.

Steve Alpert and Ken Smith announced that the Amusement Token Collectors Association (ATCA) will begin a bimonthly publication in July. Dues will be \$2.00 for the last half of 1980 (not payable now). Charter members will receive the first issue containing payment instructions. ATCA has about 40 members so far.

The January token auction was a small one, but another auction record was set when an old streetcar token sold for \$25.00. A sack of 230 pieces of junkbox exonumia sold for \$2.75. Other miscellaneous pieces went for 20¢ to \$1.00 each. The auction brought in \$3.10 for the club's treasury, Andy Crusen reported.

NATIONAL COLLECTIBLES EXPOSITION

Joel Reznick, Paul Cunningham, and Rich Hartzog have joined forces to present the National Collectibles Exposition, March 29-30, 1980, in Chicago, Ill. Tokens and medals will be featured (with auctions by Cunningham and Johnson & Jensen), along with

collectibles of all kinds. The CATC wishes success on this exposition to the promoters, dealers and visitors. This could be a stepping stone to having an annual national convention exclusively for token collectors of all kinds. I am in favor of TAMS holding its annual meeting independent of the ANA, with a bourse of its own. Then, if other large token organizations (such as the Civil War Token Society, American Vecturist Association, National Scrip Collectors Association) held their annual conventions in conjunction, we would have a tremendous token convention with many dealers and a large turnout. This same convention would enable the many other token groups and organizations which currently have no national meetings, to have one at this convention.

TAMS is considering such a move, and if you are a member let them know if you agree. Token meetings sponsored by smaller groups and individuals have so far been unable to draw in large numbers of visitors from all over the country; but a convention promoted by TAMS most certainly could.

CALIFORNIA'S GAMBLING SHIPS

by Stephen P. Alpert

transported customers to and from the ships. Ports for the water taxis were at Long Beach, San Pedro, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, and Ocean Park. On board the ships were large casinos featuring blackjack, roulette, craps, bingo, and slot machines, as well as bars and restaurants.

In my continuing research of these ships, I have uncovered the names of thirteen different gambling ships, in operation from 1928 to 1946. These are tabulated below, for the first time anywhere (a TOKEN TOPICS exclusive). Most of the ships probably issued their own gambling chips, and possibly tokens. So far I know of chips from the S.S. TANGO and S.S. REX, and tokens (for bingo and slot machines) from the TANGO, REX and possibly the CASINO.

SHIP	PORT	FROM	TO
JOHANNA SMITH	Long Beach	1928	1932
MONT FALCONI	Long Beach	1929	1930
ROSE ISLE	Long Beach	1930?	1935?
MONTE CARLO	Long Beach	1930?	1936?
CASINO	Ocean Park?	1930?	1935?
JOHANNA SMITH II	Long Beach?	1933?	1936?
CITY OF PANAMA (= STAR OF HOLLYWOOD)	Long Beach	1933?	1936?
LA PLAYA (de Ensenada)	Long Beach	1933?	1935?
TANGO	Long Beach	1934	1939
MOUNT BAKER (= SHOWBOAT)	Long Beach	1935?	1939
TEXAS	Santa Monica	1935?	1939
REX	Santa Monica	1938	1939
BUNKER HILL (= LUX)	Long Beach	Aug. 1946	Sept. 1946

Since the first ship in 1928, law and government officials tried unsuccessfully numerous times to close down the ships. It wasn't until the August 1, 1939 raid lead by newly elected California Attorney General Earl Warren, that three of the four remaining ships were shut down. Only the S.S. REX didn't surrender, and held off the raiding navy in a ten-day siege known as "The Battle of Santa Monica

Bay." The Rex's owner, Tony Cornero Stralla, finally surrendered, and eventually lost the ship in court. But he came back seven years later with a new gambling ship, the LUX. The then California Governor Earl Warren was outraged, and appealed to President Truman for help. After seven weeks of interrupted operation, the LUX was seized by the U.S. Coast Guard, and destroyed.

I have written a large copyrighted account on the California gambling ships of 1934 to 1946 and the career of Tony Cornero Stralla, which will soon be published in the Journal of the Token and Medal Society (with illustrations of the ships). It has already appeared in The COIN SLOT, a monthly magazine for antique coin machine enthusiasts (Box 612, Wheatridge, Colo. 80033).



TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

MAY, 1980
ISSUE NO. 85
STEPHEN P. ALPERT
EDITOR

M A Y M E E T I N G THIS MONTH'S CATC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 18, FROM ABOUT 1:30 TO 4:30PM, IN SHERMAN OAKS, AT THE HOME OF MEMBERS JOHN AND VIRGINIA BARNES. THEIR ADDRESS IS 4021 PACHECO DRIVE. FROM THE NORTHBOUND SAN DIEGO FWY, EXIT AT VENTURA BLVD, TURN RIGHT ONTO SEPULVEDA; GO SOUTH TWO BLOCKS, THEN LEFT ONTO VALLEY VISTA. CONTINUE EAST ON WINDING VALLEY VISTA ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE TO STONE CANYON; TURN RIGHT ONTO STONE CANYON, GO ONE BLOCK AND TURN RIGHT ONTO PACHECO; GO ONE BLOCK AND YOU'RE THERE. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE BEFORE, CHECK A MAP, OR PHONE JOHN AT 783-6745 FOR DIRECTIONS.

LET'S HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT AT THIS MEETING. BRING ALL YOUR SELLING, TRADING, OR SHOWING MATERIAL. WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER TOKEN AUCTION (SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION).

M A R C H M E E T I N G R E P O R T: There was an unexpectedly light turnout of members at our last meeting, hosted by Elaine Willahan. Present were 12 members (Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Jim Garner, Bob Kubach, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Bob Rosenberger, Ken Smith, Eleanor Smith, Elaine Willahan) and one guest (Diana Elman). Even with the low attendance there was a lot of activity, as usual. However, the scheduled auction was cancelled, primarily due to a shortage of submitted material and secondarily to the low number of bidders and absence of auctioneer. Another auction is scheduled for this month's (May) meeting, but afterwards it may be better to hold an auction just twice a year instead of every two months.

Secretary Elaine Willahan announced that 21 people had not renewed their membership for 1980. Unfortunately we will probably lose most of them, so do your best to introduce new people to our association. Elaine also announced that we have four new members: Mrs. Amon Jennings of Upland, Calif. (#187); Agnar Wahlberg of Palm Springs, Calif. (#188; collects CCC tokens and exonumia); Henry H. Clifford of Los Angeles (#189); and Mr. Victor of Doylestown, Pa. (#190; collects gambling tokens and chips, transportation tokens, and Mardi Gras tokens). We welcome you all to membership in the California Association of Token Collectors.

Those in attendance at the March meeting helped Roland Atwood celebrate his 84th birthday with a large birthday cake. Roland was probably the first student of exonumia to extensively research and catalogue a series of primarily twentieth century tokens, and his name is now synonymous with transportation tokens. As part of the birthday celebration festivities, Andy Crusen preformed a lively player piano concert.

A COLLECTING IDEA

The number of different ways tokens can be collected is almost limitless. Has anyone ever tried to assemble a calendar date collection? (one token or medal mentioning each day of the year: Jan. 1, Jan. 2, Jan. 3, etc., all the way to Dec. 31). A complete set would consist of 366 pieces, a managable number. The year and type of token or medal would be unimportant, with just the month and day collected. It would seem that Feb. 29, the leap year day, would be the most difficult to obtain, but other dates could be more elusive. I'd like to try this myself, but I've got my hands full with other collections. Why don't you consider such an undertaking if your current collecting

activity has slowed down - maybe you can be the first to assemble a complete date collection. We'll list in Token Topics anyone who will attempt to tackle this challenge, so other members can help out.

LETTER PUNCH
IDENTIFICATION
TAGS

Machines that punch out the letters of your choice onto a metal disk have been around since the beginning of this century. They are usually placed in amusement arcades, depots, variety stores, and at tourist attractions and fairs.

The machines have a large dial with letters and numbers and punctuation marks around the outside. A large heavy pointer rotates around the dial. You move it to the letter you want and then you pull an arm to impress that letter onto the aluminum tag. The tag then rotates a space and is ready for the next impression. There are usually 32 spaces around the outer part of the tag, and the machine has a counter indicating how many space are used up or remain. After the complete message is stamped, you pull a different arm and your tag falls out.

Most people elect to stamp out their name and one of the following: the date; their birthdate; the place; their address; their occupation; their social security number; or an organization they belong to.

These identification tags have received very little collector interest; only those of early fairs are sought and catalogued. But many of the tags mention or illustrate a specific place or company, in the center of the tag. I have ones from Minnehaha Falls; Meramac Caverns, Mo.; Carlsbad Caverns; Boulder Dam; Greyhound Lines; Griffith Park Observatory; and others. More common, however, are plain stock tags, with just a flag, horseshoe, four-leaf clover (etc.) on each side. These come with a variety of shapes hanging in the center (star, triangle, four-leaf clover).

Some pieces carry the name of the machine manufacturer:
"Ge. W. Heene, Cleveland, O."
"Harvard Aut. Mach. Co., Jamestown, N.Y."
"Standard Typer Co."

These machines are still around, and usually cost 25¢ to operate.



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JULY, 1980
ISSUE No. 86

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

JULY MEETING Our July meeting will be held on the afternoon of Sunday July 20 at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th St., Los Angeles (near Century Blvd. & Figueroa). Lets have a good turnout for this meeting; so far this year attendance at our meetings has been unusually light. The main function of our organization is the bimonthly meetings, much looked forward to by those who attend regularly. So please attend if you can and bring all your trading material.

MAY MEETING REPORT John and Virginia Barnes hosted the May CATC meeting which was attended by Steve Alpert; Roland Atwood; John & Virginia Barnes; Andy Crusen; Jim Garner; Bob Null; Eleanor, Ken & Kirk Smith; Alan Weinberg; and guest Ben Odesser from Chicago, who joined the CATC at the meeting. Ben was visiting Los Angeles for a couple of weeks and greatly enjoyed the meeting.

In addition to Ben Odesser, 6332 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60659 (collects Israel & Jewish exonumia), secretary Elaine Willahan reported another new member: W.A. Sadler, Box 5335, Inglewood, Calif. 90310.

We had a small auction of miscellaneous tokens and medals at the May meeting. The members present decided to continue having the auction as a regular part of each meeting, so bring along to future meetings something to sell via the auction. The auctions are most exciting when there's a large turnout of members at the meeting.

ATCA LAUNCHES THE JACKPOT CATC members Steve Alpert and Ken Smith have recently published the first issue of THE JACKPOT, a bimonthly publication of the Amusement Token Collectors Association (ATCA). The eight-page publication features supplements to the Alpert & Smith amusement token catalogue, articles on amusement tokens and machines, free ads to members, auction reports, etc. Dues in ATCA for the last half of 1980 is only \$2.00, payable to Eleanor Smith, 328 Ave. F, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277. Several CATC members are already ATCA members. You can join ATCA at the July CATC meeting and get your copy of THE JACKPOT there.

EXONUMIA SHOW IN FULLERTON The California Exonumist Society will be holding its 19th Annual All-Day Collectible Show on July 27, 1980, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the Holiday Hall room of the Holiday Inn Of Fullerton, Calif. The Holiday Inn is located on Harbor Blvd., one block north of the Riverside Freeway. Admission is 50¢ and parking is free. Eleven dealers (including CATC members Steve Alpert and Larry Elman) will have a wide variety of tokens and medals of all kinds plus paper collectibles and miscellaneous small collectibles for your shopping pleasure. There will also be exhibits and door prizes at the show, which is a must for all southern California token and medal enthusiasts. Spread the word, and see you there!



0891
VENICE, CALIFORNIA
1905 - 1980

This month, Venice, California is celebrating its 75th anniversary, having been founded on July 4, 1905 by land developer Abbott Kinney on swamp and marsh land

south of Santa Monica. Kinney modeled his city after Venice, Italy, complete with canals and gondolas, and called it Venice of America. His hopes were for a dignified cultural beach community, but instead the seaside amusement, carnival and gambling atmosphere quickly dominated the town which became the west coast's version of Coney Island. In 1906 side shows, funhouses and other midway attractions direct from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and 1905 Portland Lewis & Clark Exposition set up alongside the canals. They soon afterwards moved onto numerous piers which featured a multitude of amusement rides and attractions.

The town was officially named Ocean Park until 1911 when the name was changed to Venice. The community to the north retained the name Ocean Park, and is now part of Santa Monica. Venice became part of Los Angeles in 1925. Venice businesses have issued a moderate number of tokens over the years, most of which are now fairly rare.

One token that relates some of Venice's early history is the advertising-sport schedule token of the Ship Cafe and Venice Tigers. Pictured on the obverse is the Ship Cafe, a sailing ship on the Venice Pier. This restaurant was originally known as the Ship Hotel in 1905. Both slot machines and other forms of gambling were found on board. The Ship Cafe was destroyed in the fire that destroyed the Venice pier on Dec. 21, 1920. The pier was rebuilt in 1921, with a new Ship Cafe.

The reverse of the token gives the 1913 schedule of the Venice Tigers baseball team of the Pacific Coast League. The Tigers moved to Venice from Vernon and lasted just two seasons in Venice, 1913 and 1914. Their star player was Walter Carlisle, the only outfielder in baseball history to turn an unassisted triple play. The ballpark in Venice sat about 12,000. Games were played on Tuesday through Saturday with a doubleheader on Sunday which drew capacity crowds. Monday was travel day. The Venice Tigers' record in 1913 was 107-102, in 1914 113-98. They finished third and fifth, respectively; the Portland Beavers were champs both years.

A miniature railroad ran throughout Venice and served as local transportation as well as a tour service for visitors.

In the 1930s many bingo parlors and other amusement booths issued tokens for use in their games. One bingo parlor that used tokens was run by William Harrah, who took it over from his father John Harrah (who was mayor of Venice). William Harrah later moved his bingo operation to Reno, Nevada, where it grew into the Harrah's Hotels and Casinos empire of today in Reno and Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

The Ushers in Venice issued several series of zodiac astrology tokens which are frequently encountered. They were used by magicians in performing coin tricks, but I'm not certain if that was their sole intended purpose.

Other merchant, dairy, and miscellaneous trade tokens issued in Venice are listed in the California token catalogues of Kappan and Album.



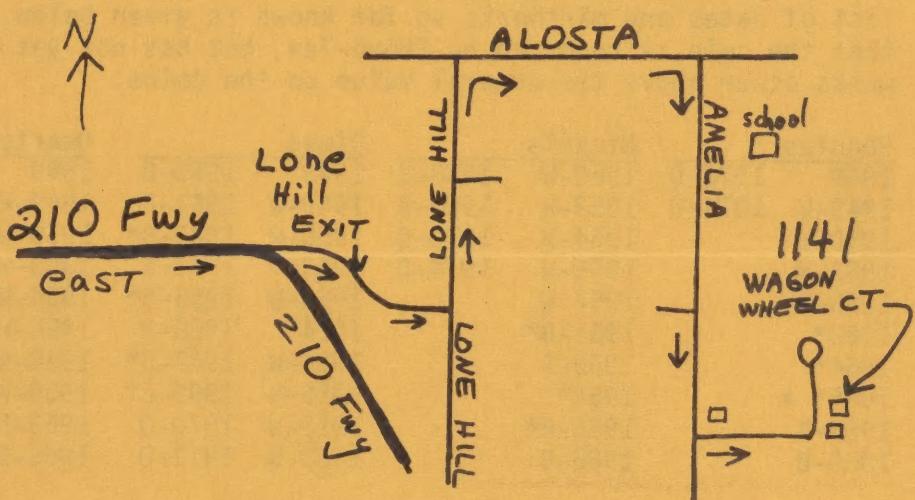
TOKEN TOPICS

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SEPTEMBER, 1980
ISSUE No. 87

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING Bill Massey will be the host for our September meeting on Sunday, September 21, from 1 to 5 pm, at his home in San Dimas. His address is 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct. The accompanying map shows how to find his home. From the 210 Fwy take the Lone Hill Exit. Go north on Lone Hill to the traffic light at Alosta; turn right and go one light to Amelia; turn right to Wagon Wheel Ct. (see map). We will have another small exounmia auction at the meeting so bring along something to sell via the auction. Also, nominees for CATC officers for 1981 will be taken at the September meeting, for our election vote at the November meeting.



JULY MEETING REPORT

A fairly large number of people turned out for the midsummer CATC meeting, hosted by Elaine Willahan. Present were 16 members (Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Don Finch, Jim Garner, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, F.A. Rorhman, Frank Rose-linsky, Wally Schidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan) and 2 guests (Harriet Carter and Leon Feller). At the meeting several subjects were discussed, including warnings of the hazards of housing tokens in vinyl flips and holders, which leak chemicals that react with metal. A variety of exounmia was auctioned off by John Barnes. There were lots of tokens at the meeting, which kept all busy looking, swapping and buying. A few more CATC members joined ATCA (Amusement Token Collectors Assn.) at the July meeting. ATCA President Ken Smith reports that ATCA now has over 100 paid members.

PARKING TOKEN

Reproduced here is a newspaper clipping on parking tokens being used in Marina Del Rey, CA. I haven't checked them out, so I don't know if they are the same Marina Del Rey tokens as listed in Feisell's catalogue, or if they are new ones.

Reproduced here is a newspaper clipping on parking tokens being used in Marina Del Rey, CA. I haven't

checked them out, so I don't know if they are the same Marina Del Rey tokens as listed in Feisell's catalogue, or if they are new ones.

D-2—Wed., August 20, 1980 EVENING OUTLOOK

Discount tokens

The county has come up with a great cost saver that may also alleviate some of the bulkhead parking problems. Apartment dwellers and guests of boaters are reminded that parking on the water-side bulkheads is reserved for "Boat Slip Tenants Only; Parking Permit Required." In the interest of facilitating adherence to this ruling, be advised that you may now purchase discount tokens for use in MDR parking lots operated by the County.

Tokens may be purchased as follows:

1-29 tokens maybe bought for 50 cents each, 50-149 for 40 cents each, or 150 or more for 30 cents each. County lots require one token for all day parking, and the boat launching ramp requires three tokens for entry by vehicle and trailer.

The tokens may be purchased at the Administration Building, 13337 Fiji Way, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UNCLE SAM
PLAY MONEY
UPDATE

Former CATC President John Barnes in his March 1976 issue of Token Topics, printed a letter from Grove-Tex Industries of Waco, Texas, manufacturers of Uncle Sam Play Money. They listed by denomination the dates and mintmarks on the play coins they manufactured. The earliest mintmark, W, they are unsure of and think it may be for Waco Tex, the previous name of the company before Mr. O.T.Grove bought it in 1956. The W mintmark occurs on coins dated 1949 to 1959; some coins in this period are without mintmark. The B mintmark occurs on coins dated 1960 to 1969, and stands for Byford Equipment, who made the dies for Grove-Tex. The Q mintmark occurs on coins dated 1970 to 1974 (most recent date known) and is for Quality Manufacturers, who made the dies.

Many additional dates not on Grove-Tex's list have been found, and a complete list of dates and mintmarks so far known is given below. An asterisk (*) indicates that the coin is reported by Grove-Tex, but has not yet been seen by me. The mintmarks occur above the numeral value on the coins.

Pennies		Nickels		Dimes		Quarters		Halves
1949	1970-Q	1950-W	1968-B	1949	1960-B	1949	1967-B	1949-W*
1949-W	1974-Q	1953-W	1969-B	1949-W	1961-B	1949-W	1969-B	1953-W*
1950-W		1954-W	1970-Q	1950-W	1963-B*	1950-W	1970-Q	1954-W*
1953-W		1955-W	1974-Q	1953	1964-B	1953-W*	1974-Q	1956-W*
1955-W		1957-W		1953-W	1965-B*	1954-W		1959-W
1962*		1961-B*		1954*	1966-B	1955-W*		1964*
1964*		1963-B		1954-W	1967-B*	1958-W		1969*
1965*		1964*		1955-W	1969-B*	1959-W		1970-Q
1966-B		1965-B*		1957-W	1970-Q	1963-B		1972-Q
1969-B		1966-B		1958-W	1972-Q	1965-B		

If you have any not on this list or ones marked * please let me (Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066) know so I can list them in the next issue. There are several types of coins in each denomination, as indicated below:

1¢ COINS: Type 1 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / 1 / Play Cent; Rev: False Money / (flag) / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 16mm (1949,1949-W). Type 2 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / (flag) / Play Penny; Rev: Play Penny / 1 / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 16mm (1950-W). Type 3 - as type 2 but Copper, 17mm (1953-W). Type 4 - as type 2 but copper-plated aluminum, 16mm (1966-B on).

5¢ COINS: Type 1 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / 5 / Play Nickel; Rev: Play Nickel / (bust of cowboy) / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 19mm (1950-W to 1957-W). Type 2 - as type 1, but reverse reads Play Money, and size is 18mm (1957-W). Type 3 - same as type 1, but date is upside down (1963-B on).

10¢ COINS: Type 1 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / 10 / Play Dime; Rev: Play Money / (shield) / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 16mm (1949 to 1955-W). Type 2 - same as type 1 but 15mm (1957-W to 1960-B). Type 3 - same as type two but date upside down (1964-B on).

25¢ COINS: Type 1 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / 25 / Play Quarter; Rev: Play Quarter / (head of longhorn steer) / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 23mm (1949 on). Type 2 - as type 1, but reverse reads Play Money and pictures a short-horned steer; Alum, 25mm (1949-W).

50¢ COINS: Type 1 - Obv: Uncle Sam (date) / 50 / Play Half Buck; Rev: Play Money / (deer head) / Falsa Pecunia; Alum, 26mm (1959-W). Type 2 - as type 1 but reverse reads Play Half (1970-Q, 1972-Q).

In the 1970s I bought several round plastic boxes of these coins, sold in toy and drug stores. The label reads: "Tex's Play Money Box, Approx. 24 coins - 10 bills, Manufactured by Grove-Tex Industries (etc)." The coins in the box were of various dates of the late 60s-early 70s. It seems as if they used whatever was on hand, and when one denomination ran low, a new quantity was made bearing the current year. The dimes were most abundant in the boxes; this could be why the dimes occur with the largest number of different dates.

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NOVEMBER, 1980
Issue No. 88

2834 Stephen P. Alpert
Editor

DUES NOTICE Now's the time to send in your CATC dues for 1981. Lest you forget, do it now - send your \$2.00 to Elaine Willahan (address below and on envelope). Those attending the big November meeting can pay in person. We hope to keep all 79 members and pick up many more in the coming year.

NOVEMBER MEETING Our last meeting of 1980 will be hosted by our secretary Elaine Willahan at her home at 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044, on Sunday November 16, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. It should be a good gathering, with lots of exonumia available. Ken Smith will have his new book on ferry, ship and canal transportation tokens of the world available at the meeting. The book is hot off the press, so you can pick up an autographed copy. Those members present at the meeting will vote for CATC President and Vice President for 1981 (there are no candidates as yet). Afterwards we'll have another club auction of tokens and medals, so bring something to sell or unload via the auction, which will probably be bigger and better than usual. And on top of all this, those present will enjoy Elaine's delicious refreshments. So don't miss this meeting, if you're close enough to attend.

SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT Our September meeting was a change of scenery, being hosted by Bill Massey at his home in San Dimas. Those attending were members Steve Alpert, Russ Anderson, John and Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Jim Garner, Bob Kubach, Bill Massey, Fritz Rohrman, Eleanor and Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willahan, plus guests Shirlee Anderson, Diana Massey, and Richard Massey. There was the usual busy token trading and buying going on, plus an auction of nearly 20 lots of exonumia, two of which were donated by Elaine Willahan and Bob Kubach with proceeds to the CATC treasury.

MORE ON DATED PLAY MONEY Last issue, I listed all the Uncle Sam play coins known to me. Roy Nulph verifies the 1955-W quarter, as he has one. And John Nicolosi reports a 1956-W half and a 1962-B penny. Does anyone have any others that need verification or are unlisted?

Another series of dated metal play coins is the Tex-A-Toy set described below. Possibly they were issued by the same company that made the Uncle Sam play money.

5¢ coin:	TEX-A-TOY 1954 / (gun) / TOY NICKEL
	A 19 Sd Toy Money / (star) 5 (star) / Five Cents
10¢ coin:	TEX-A-TOY 1954 / (boot) / TOY DIME
	A 16 Sd Toy Money / (star) 10 (star) / Ten Cents
25¢ coin:	TEX-A-TOY 1954 / (horsehead) / TOY QUARTER
	A 23 Sd Toy Money / (star) 25 (star) / Twenty-Five Cents
50¢ coin:	TEX-A-TOY 1954 / (eagle) / TOY HALF DOLLAR
	A 27 Sd Toy Money / (star) 50 (star) / Fifty Cents

I am unaware of any other dates in this series. A 1¢ coin may also exist.

ICE VENDING TOKENS

by Steve Alpert

A new little known type of token appears to be gaining widespread use - to operate ice vending machines, primarily at motels. Apparently non-guests were helping themselves to the free ice cube machines at some motels. So coin-operated ice cube vending machines began to appear, with special tokens given to the guests so they don't have to pay the 25¢ for a bucket of ice cubes.

Recently on a trip across Arizona I was given one of these tokens when checking into a Best Western Motel in Willcox. The brass uniface 23mm token reads ICE O MATIC, incuse in a propeller outline. On the Ice-O-Matic machine, a tag said it is a subsidiary of Sunbeam, Denver, Colo. I also received the illustrated Good For paper card "token" when checking in.

Later on that trip I obtained two other ice tokens from a pinball machine operator: Sanitary Clean Ice, and Coin-A-Cube Ice Token (picturing an ice machine. Both are brass, with blank reverse. And at another Best Western in Arizona, instead of real tokens they were using regular quarters painted red with nail polish.

All such tokens I've seen so far appear to be stock-type tokens that could be used at many locations. Does anyone have any similar tokens that name a specific motel or location?

243
GOOD FOR \$1.00 ON A MEAL

Courtesy of Plaza Inn

GOOD ONLY AT



Truck Plaza
Restaurant

I-10, EXIT 340 - WILLCOX, ARIZONA

- OR -

Benson Plaza Restaurant

I-10, EXIT 304 - BENSON, ARIZONA

EXPIRES

OCT. 21 1980

